

Chairboys

Gas

*A Magazine by Supporters
of
Wycombe Wanderers F.C.*

INSIDE

G. M. V. C.

VAUXHALL OPEL

BEAZER-HOME

& N.P.L.

NEWS & TABLES



IS THIS ALL YOU GET AT HOME?

ALSO INSIDE

"LINCOLN REPORT"

"THE NEW GROUND"

PLUS THE USUAL STUFF

30p

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1987-88

Chairboys Gas

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1987-88

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EDITORIAL

They say a year's a long time in football and nothing could be more nearer the truth than for the season just passed. Twelve months ago we were basking in the glory of having gained promotion back to the Conference. By August we were wondering what it had all been for and by Christmas the prayers were being said. Arrive Jim Kelman, the saviour of Loakes Park, the man who has brought the pride back to Wycombe Wanderers and allowed a few people to catch up on some sleep.

I won't be drawn into making too many predictions for next season, after all a lot can happen in one summer. We've all seen the speculative transfer talk...Noel Ashford, Graham Bressington and Anton Vircavs, but let's not get too carried away. So what will really be happening next season? The last season at Loakes Park? Trips to Newport County, Chorley, 'three years to go up' Yeovil and despite their gallant attempt to avoid winning the Championship, our friends from Aylesbury.

Finally I'd like to thank all those who have supported the magazine this season. Remember we have a 100% commitment to Wycombe Wanderers F.C. We are not claiming to be the voice of the supporters but we give the supporters a chance to have a voice. Your views are most welcome.

Enjoy the reading - Enjoy the summer

Paul Lewis

Contributions and assistance for this issue from Keith Adams, Phil Ball, Ian Blackridge, Simon Burrage, Simon Flower, Steve Maguire, Pete Oxbrow and Andy Reston.

BEHIND THE GOAL with Simon Burrage.

Of course, if you believe what you read in the newspapers, we were rid of the lingering threat of relegation the day Weymouth were defeated at Loakes Park on Easter Monday; "SAFE" blazed the Midweek headline. The trouble is, a lot of people do believe what they read in newspapers, and by Tuesday afternoon numerous work colleagues were asking me how relieved I was that we now had nothing to worry about, and I expect many other Wycombe supporters had the same experience. And don't people seem surprised when you try to explain that, in fact, you have certainly not stopped worrying yet. AAARGH! Don't these people remember 1986? That final week of the season when we drew with Dagenham and lost to Altrincham while certain persons said things like "Yeah, but you're still safe aren't you?" Those of us who lived and suffered through those few days of torment were not going to celebrate anything until it was mathematically impossible to finish in the bottom three - though I will admit there was a minor celebration the day after the Weymouth match, when Bath spurned a golden opportunity to reduce their survival schedule by three points when they failed to win at Wealdstone. Several Wycombe fans made the short trip over to Lower Mead and witnessed an event very different to that they had enjoyed at Loakes Park the previous day. At Loakes Park on a sunny Bank Holiday afternoon, 2,000 supporters enthusiastically acclaimed a crucial victory over Weymouth earned with guts and commitment and the Wycombe players graciously acknowledged the support they had received. (Something which has particularly pleased me about our ever-increasing support all season has been the commitment of the support; where in previous years there may have been traces of apathy and disinterest, there is now enthusiasm and passion.) The next day at Wealdstone on a chilly evening you might have thought it comparable to one of our Capital League games rather than a 'dog-eat-dog' Conference relegation battle involving, according to the Elmslie Ender, "the best supported Club in the League" (probably referring to the singing dozen they have behind their goal). For the record, Bath led from shortly before half-time and their supporters (yes, there were a few) were ready to celebrate what would have been a crucial win as the game entered injury time only to concede a very late equaliser. Most 'Stones' fans were somewhat restrained in their celebration of the goal as they knew a draw was of little use to them. The Bath fans not surprisingly looked somewhat distraught, while a handful of 'Chairboys' sped out of the ground and through the adjoining streets shouting hysterically "STAYING UP!"....Well, I did anyway. Not much sympathy for Bath I'm afraid, but then it served them right for having the audacity to beat us 10 days earlier when anything up to 400 away fans gave them a gate of over 900 only for Bath goalscorer, John Freegard, to remark on local radio after the game that "it was nice to see the locals turning out for us"!

Staying on the subject of support (and why shouldn't I, it's a supporters magazine) there is no need for me to comment again on our attendances in the GMVC this season but what is the world coming to when over 650 people turn out in pouring rain for a Capital League President's Cup match with Barnet? Such jolly excitement as well! Not the most important of competitions but it's certainly provided us with some fun over the last two seasons. Against Barnet, a display of finishing power from Francis Edgar 'Terence Trent' Awaritefe left most of us gasping at the thought that he was almost signed by Peter Suddaby for £5,000 this season but despite being 2 goals adrift in normal time, and then again in extra-time, then trailing again in the penalty shoot-out, we saw the Blues eventually triumph by the odd-goal in 23(!) and earn an unusual end-of-season fixture against Brentford or Gillingham in the Final.

Just another match, just another memory of Loakes Park; we'd better enjoy it while we can. It seems the day is not far away when we will not be allowed onto

continued over....

.....continuation

Loakes Park - it will be a building site, and almost 100 years of our town's/Club's history and tradition will go into oblivion. Actually I'm not - or at least I hope I'm not - going to dive into a sentimental "Don't leave Loakes Park" rant, but I will admit to being quite terrified at the prospect of moving to a new ground. God knows (what's Noel Ashford got to do with this?) I want our Club to progress as far as possible up the football ladder but many of us feel the risk being taken is enormous. What we are going to lose is a wonderful football ground, loved by its supporters, more than adequate in every respect for our current level of football. We will lose our heritage, our identification with our past. Quite clearly, if the move is not to be a source of eternal regret, the new ground simply must be very good indeed - and that means good for supporters, not just in the eyes of visiting officials or ground-grading committees. The Club's questionnaire, issued to supporters by means of the match programme, went a long way to showing that our opinions and expectations will be given some consideration and was much appreciated by supporters judging by the number of completed forms being returned via the Club Shop.

This being the season's final edition of CG I thought I'd just give a brief follow up to few matters I've mentioned in previous issues. Mr David Morritt - you may recall a few comments I made on the situation at Wealdstone and how their Chairman had upset many of their supporters with his 'plans' for their Club. Mr Morritt has, in case you don't already know, now resigned following an on-pitch demonstration by 'Stones' fans. Meanwhile, the Wealdstone supporters magazine, Elmslie Ender, has been officially banned from being sold at all GMVC grounds after the editor of the Dagger Magazine had complained to the GMVC Management Committee when EE carried some admittedly course remarks about the Essex club. Apart from the obvious comment that a GMVC ban won't affect Wealdstone's magazine next season, it seems that the hopes I expressed that supporters' magazines be allowed to flourish unhindered by constraints of petty minded officialdom have not been shared in some quarters. Lastly in this little round-up, remember my mentioning the Berks & Bucks FA's decision to hold the Senior Cup Final at Windsor before it was known whether or not Windsor would be involved themselves? Well, Windsor made the final and, not surprisingly, their opponents Wokingham strongly objected to playing the final on the Windsor ground. The B&B, bless them, then made laughing stocks of themselves and their original decision by agreeing with Wokingham and switched the venue to Chesham (nothing like choosing the best ground for the occasion is there - anywhere but the best best non-League ground in the two counties, eh Chaps?).

Finally, 1987-88 has seen Wycombe Wanderers finish in our highest ever placing in the non-League pyramid, and if only for that reason alone should be remembered as a successful season. Survival in the Conference has been the Club's target all along, and it has been achieved. Not only that, but the season has ended with Wycombe Wanderers very much on the up! This has been the season when the Club recovered from its own self-inflicted wounds and eventually emerged stronger, fitter and better than it had started. Dr Kelman has provided the miracle cure and inspired such a revival that you have to stop and remind yourself of the horrible winter we endured. Jim Kelman has succeeded in his first priority of keeping us in the Conference but will be well aware that the pressure will be back again next season one way or another. But for the time being, on behalf of all the supporters who have followed Wycombe Wanderers at home and away this season, may I thank Mr Kelman, Keith Barrett and all the players who have responded so well in the second half of the season. You have restored our pride in supporting this Club and you should be proud of yourselves for that.

Roll on next August.

DO THEY MEAN US?
investigated by Steve Maguire

The Chairboys have been involved in a number of memorable matches in recent weeks, but the win over Weymouth on Easter Monday gave me most satisfaction.

Not because it virtually assured us of a place in the Conference next season, but because before the game I had the misfortune to listen to a Wycombe based WEYMOUTH SUPPORTER's patronising comments about how we had never beaten them, and how there was no chance of the attendance reaching 2,000 as predicted by Jim Kelman in the WYCOMBE OBSERVER. Well we did beat them, and the crowd was 2,066.

The team's support away from home prompted a letter to the 'Crazy Column' (sorry the Sports Post Column) in the BUCKS FREE PRESS. I'm not sure, however, that Mark Flashman, Barnet's 'keeper in the 23 goal Capital League Cup match, would agree with the editor's remarks about the Wycombe crowd being known "*....for their appreciation of the game of football.*"

The visit to Underhill for the League clash with Barnet, saw the return to the side (and form) of Gary Lester. Gary was featured in a strange piece the week after the Barnet game in the Sports Diary of the BUCKS ADVERTISER, written by the now departed Stephen Davies. Writing about the Club's alleged reluctance to grant players testimonial matches, Mr Davies advises us that Gary "...a very popular local sportsman, revered by youngsters and bookmakers alike" is "...the latest in a growing list of players who have graced Loakes Park and had very little to show for their efforts". Personally, I would be happy to support any game that was played on Gary's behalf, but I just wondered why the article was written in the first place. It ignores the testimonial matches that the Club has awarded to three of its most loyal servants, Jock Sheppard, Tony Horseman and John Maskell, but informs us that both Howard Kennedy and Paul Birdseye were both "*humiliated*" by not being rewarded in this way. Kennedy left the Club under rather strange circumstances, still not clear to many supporters, so it's hardly surprising, while Birdseye, I was informed, was given permission to arrange a joint match with Micky Holifield back in 1982, but nothing was ever arranged. Perhaps the details will be included in the next LeagueLine newsletter?

At Telford a few of the locals seemed to think Wycombe was in London judging by the insults they were throwing at us - let's hope they had better geographical sense on the way to Wembley for the F A Trophy final.

The 'Front-Page' story since the last issue of CG is, of course, the new ground. I was somewhat surprised by the lack of reaction from all those people who originally opposed the move, quite honestly, I was expecting a deluge of letters in the local press from protesting Sands residents, but there has not been one. The news did actually filter through to the TV screens. THAMES NEWS on 28 March said "*Now on to some sad news...Wycombe Wanderers are moving from Loakes Park*", while on BBC1, Michael Wale contrived to mention Yeovil, sloping pitches and the fact he had played at Loakes Park, on his patronising slot on SOUTH-EAST AT SIX.

There will, of course, be some new grounds to visit in the GMVC next season and subject to GMVC ground grading committee approval, AYLESBURY UNITED will be one of them. 'The Ducks' are obviously looking forward to our visit there already, our spy at Buckingham Road has reported the following chant from Aylesbury fans during the Aylesbury/Crawley match in April.. "*We want Wycombe on Boxing Day*". Bearing in mind the off field activity during our last two 'clashes' this would seem rather appropriate.



The battle of nerves at the top of the Conference was finally won by LINCOLN CITY as they beat Wycombe 2-0 at Sincil Bank on the final day of the season before a 9,432 crowd. BARNET finished in the runners-up spot for the second consecutive season and Barry Fry's position as Manager at Underhill must now be in question.

Both BARNET and LINCOLN CITY returned an unbelievable string of bad results during the final weeks of the season. Lincoln failed to win any of the last seven away Conference fixtures while Barnet had a run of one win in eight games in their final run-in. KETTERING TOWN entered the Championship race at a late stage and after beating Lincoln at Rockingham Road before an 'all-ticket' gate of 4,135, needed to win their remaining 3 fixtures to take the title. A crowd of 2,520 turned out at Rockingham Road to see the first of these but RUNCORN spoilt the celebrations with a 3-0 victory. Runcorn also 'gate-crashed' on Barnet's Championship party during their last League game of the season at Underhill. Knowing that Lincoln had dropped points earlier in the week to Maidstone, Barnet needed maximum points from their remaining fixtures to take the title. A crowd of 5,143 saw Steve Cox grab a 75th minute equaliser for Barnet but after hitting bar and post, Runcorn's top scorer Mark Carter broke away in the dying minutes to complete another painful day for Barnet. On the same day Lincoln beat Stafford at Sincil Bank before clinching the title before a capacity crowd on the following Monday against Wycombe.

At the bottom of the table DAGENHAM and WEALDSTONE inevitably finished in the relegation zone while BATH CITY were forced into the third relegation spot by virtue of WELLING UNITED's draw at Cheltenham Town and City's defeat at Runcorn on April 23rd.

DAGENHAM's final run-in to the season makes unpleasant reading for 'Daggers' fans and Wycombe fans alike. Their final 20 League games of the season resulted in one victory and 19 defeats - no prizes for guessing the only victory. Dagenham, who have sold 'keeper Darren Williams and defenders Nicky Bissett and Phil Stacey to Barnet, have applied to join the VOL. Dagenham joined the Alliance Premier from the Isthmian League in 1981.

WEALDSTONE are likely to join the Beazer Home League next season but more important news at Lower Mead is the fact that their Chairman, David Morritt has resigned and Vice Chairman Alan Clifton has taken over as the new Chairman. George Morritt, the Club President and David Morritt's father, has also resigned, along with his mother Frances Morritt, who was a director. David Clarke also handed in his resignation, leaving Clifton the only remaining director. Clifton has proposed four Club men to serve on the new board. They are Nick Dugard, the Supporters Club secretary, Toby Jackson, the company secretary, Eric Fletcher, the Chairman of the Vice Presidents' Club and Peter Braxton who is Club secretary.

WEALDSTONE will remain at Lower Mead next season despite talks with Harrow Borough on ground-sharing scheme. Wealdstone were hoping to spend a season at Earlsmead while a new ground was being built but they have not been able to acquire a new site and the Club are currently in a legal row with David Morritt regarding the £450,000 that Wealdstone owe him and the ownership of the adjacent car-park at Lower Mead.

Having gone through their first 20 League games at their new Wessex Stadium unbeaten, WEYMOUTH fell at the last hurdle when they lost 3-1 to ENFIELD. Interesting to note the attendances at Weymouth's new ground this season. Having initially attracted an average crowd of 1,872 for their opening eleven Conference games, the second half of the season saw the average home gate fall to just 972.

MAIDSTONE UNITED played their last Conference game at their London Road Stadium on April 23. MFI, who have paid around £3m for the site, have taken up their option to move in despite the fact that United have not found a new site for a ground. For next season, at least, Maidstone will share with either Dartford or Gravesend & Northfleet - both former Alliance Premier clubs. Maidstone will have to meet the cost of any necessary work required at the ground they eventually share. A crowd of 1,201 was present for the final game against Stafford Rangers.

The England Semi-Pro Team beat the Welsh Semi-Pro team 2-0 in the friendly encounter at Rhyl on Tuesday 15 March. Mark Carter scored both England's goals before an 800 attendance. The England team for the night was: Andy Pape (Enfield), Paul Shirtliff (Frickley Athletic), Peter Densmore (Runcorn), Dave Howell (Enfield), Shaun Teale (Weymouth), Mark Golley (Sutton United), Antone Joseph (Telford United), Robert Codner (Barnet), Steve Butler (Maidstone United), Paul Davies (Kidderminster Harriers) and Mark Carter (Runcorn). John McKenna (Boston United), Steve Brooks (Cheltenham Town), Gary Simpson (Stafford Rangers), Steve Norris (Telford United) and Paul Cuddy (Altrincham) were the substitutes.

NEWPORT COUNTY will join the GMVC next season following their relegation from Division Four. Their fate had been almost certain since Christmas and the arrival of the transfer deadline at the end of March saw their professional staff reduced to 12 in an attempt to raise money. Before resigning, Manager Brian Eastwick said "*The current playing staff would finish in the bottom half of the Conference, never mind the Fourth Division....At least half the clubs in the GMVC have better facilities, are better organised, have better commercial and administrative set-ups and have better players.*"

GENERAL MOTORS VAUXHALL CONFERENCE



Up to and including Wednesday 4th May 1988

CONFERENCE

Pos		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Crowd
1	Lincoln City	42	24	10	8	86	48	82	3762
2	Barnet	42	23	11	8	93	45	80	2645
3	Kettering Town	42	22	9	11	68	48	75	1382
4	Runcorn	42	21	11	10	68	47	74	699
5	Telford United	42	20	10	12	65	50	70	1480
6	Stafford Rangers	42	20	9	13	79	58	69	1231
7	Kidderminster Harriers	42	18	15	9	75	66	69	1345
8	Sutton United	42	16	18	8	77	54	66	681
9	Weymouth	42	18	9	15	53	43	63	1494
10	Macclesfield Town	42	18	9	15	64	62	63	1200
11	Maidstone United	41	17	9	15	76	63	60	979
12	Enfield	42	15	10	17	68	78	55	776
13	Cheltenham Town	42	11	20	11	64	67	53	1332
14	Altrincham	42	14	10	18	59	59	52	1349
15	Fisher Athletic	42	13	13	16	58	61	52	592
16	Boston United	41	14	7	20	60	69	49	1596
17	Wycombe Wanderers	42	11	13	18	50	76	46	1460
18	Northwich Victoria	41	9	17	15	40	57	44	805
19	Welling United	42	11	9	22	50	72	42	873
20	Bath City	42	9	10	23	48	76	37	598
21	Wealdstone	42	5	17	19	38	73	32	761
22	Dagenham	42	5	6	31	37	104	21	527



Having finished in the runners-up spot for the last two seasons, YEOVIL TOWN finally managed to clinch a place back in the Conference. A 0-0 midweek draw at Carshalton coupled with Wokingham's draw at Barking sealed the Championship for Brian Hall's side.

Yeovil finished the season with an average home League attendance of around 2,300 and attracted 3,451 for the visit of BROMLEY where Mick Doherty, an £11,000 record signing from Maidstone United, scored all the goals in a 3-0 victory. Next season could be the last for Yeovil at Huish as the Club have recently received planning permission for a new ground.

At the bottom of the Premier Division, BASINGSTOKE TOWN, in their first season in the VOL following a transfer from the Southern League, and HITCHIN TOWN, members of the top division since 1963, have been relegated. They will be replaced by MARLOW, who finished as Champions of Division One, and GRAYS ATHLETIC.

Two VOL sides will contest a final at Wembley this season. HENDON and First Division side WEMBLEY will play in the Final of the Middlesex Charity Cup Final at Wembley Stadium on Thursday 2 June. The sponsor of the competition, Russell Grant, has put up the money for the final, which will be Wembley's first trip to the Twin Towers. Hendon will be making their eighth visit to Wembley including equally obscure visits in a war-time Middlesex Red-Cross Final and a trial game when the floodlights were first installed.



AYLESBURY UNITED needed to avoid defeat in their last game of the season to take the Beazer Home Premier Division Championship and thus earn a chance at promotion following inspection by the GMVC ground grading committee. Improvement work is likely to include increased terracing behind both goals and additional covered accommodation.

Funds for the ground improvements would partly come from a prestigious game against the full ENGLAND side at Buckingham Road on Saturday 4 June. Aylesbury officials have come in for some criticism from their own fans following the announcement of ticket prices for this game. Stand tickets cost £10 with standing available at £6. Aylesbury are aiming for an attendance of 7,000 which would bring in receipts of around £40,000. Secretary Tony Graham told the News of the World "The money will be used to pay for new terracing which will make our ground one of the best in non-League football". Meanwhile Club Chairman Charlie Doherty informed the Bucks Herald "All along we have said that it was our intention to use the game to help set up the Club financially for our first season in the Conference".

Despite a minor recovery after Christmas, CHELMSFORD CITY finished the season in the relegation zone of the BHL Premier Division. Another former 'giant', NUNEATON BOROUGH have also been relegated in their first season back in the former Southern League. WITNEY TOWN and WILLENHALL TOWN were the other clubs to finish in the bottom four while MERTHYR TYDFIL and MOOR GREEN (from the Midland Division) and DOVER ATHLETIC and WATERLOOVILLE (from the Southern Division) will replace the foursome in the Premier Division next season.

COVENTRY SPORTING have resigned from the Midland Division while firm applications for League membership has come from SUDSBURY TOWN (Eastern Counties League) and SPALDING UNITED (United Counties League).



In the Northern Premier League, CHORLEY took the promotion spot to the GMVC despite a late burst by HYDE UNITED. Hyde finished the season with an unbeaten run of 13 games (including 11 victories). Hyde's Malcolm O'Connor finished the NPL top scorer for the season with 34 goals.

OSWESTRY TOWN played their last game ever at their Victoria Road ground on 2 April against Mossley. A 600 strong crowd dug up pieces of turf during an emotional day for the oldest football club in the world. Oswestry, who have resigned from the NPL, finished along with WORKINGTON TOWN in the relegation spots in the Premier Division of the NPL and will be replaced by STALYBRIDGE CELTIC and

FLEETWOOD TOWN from the First Division. BISHOP AUCKLAND and WHITBY TOWN of the Northern League will enter the First Division of the NPL next season.

VAUXHALL OPEL LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Wednesday 4th May 1988

POS		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Verneville Town	42	24	9	9	66	34	81
2	Bromley	42	23	7	12	68	40	76
3	Leytonstone/Ilford	42	21	11	10	60	42	74
4	Slough Town	41	20	9	12	64	40	69
5	Hayes	42	20	9	12	62	48	69
6	Wokingham Town	41	20	7	14	60	50	67
7	Windsor & Eton	42	16	17	9	59	43	65
8	Farnborough Town	42	17	11	14	63	60	62
9	Carshalton Athletic	42	16	13	13	49	41	61
10	Hendon	42	16	12	14	62	58	60
11	Tooting & Mitcham Utd	41	15	13	13	55	57	58
12	Harrow Borough	42	15	11	16	53	58	56
13	Bishops's Stortford	42	15	10	17	55	58	56
14	Kingstonian	42	14	12	16	47	53	54
15	St Albans City	42	15	6	21	60	68	51
16	Bognor Regis Town	42	14	9	19	41	57	51
17	Leyton-Wingate	42	14	8	20	58	64	50
18	Croydon	41	11	12	18	38	50	45
19	Barking	42	11	12	19	44	57	45
20	Dulwich Hamlet	42	10	11	21	46	64	41
21	Hitchin Town	42	10	8	24	46	79	38
22	Basingstoke Town	42	6	17	19	37	71	36

SEAZER HOMES LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Up to and including Monday 2nd May 1988

POS		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Dartford	42	27	8	7	79	39	89
2	Aylesbury United	41	27	7	7	77	33	88
3	Cambridge City	42	24	8	10	84	43	80
4	Bromsgrove Rovers	41	21	11	9	61	39	74
5	Worcester City	41	21	6	14	55	46	69
6	Crawley Town	42	17	14	11	73	63	65
7	Alvechurch	41	17	12	12	53	51	63
8	Leicester United	41	15	13	13	67	58	58
9	Corby Town	42	16	8	18	61	64	56
10	Dorchester Town	42	14	14	14	51	57	56
11	Fareham Town	40	15	11	14	48	57	56
12	Shepshed Charterhouse	42	13	11	18	53	62	50
13	Bedworth United	42	12	14	16	49	64	50
14	Gosport Borough	41	11	15	15	39	48	48
15	Ashford Town	40	11	15	14	43	55	48
16	Burton Albion	42	11	13	18	62	75	46
17	V S Rugby	41	10	15	16	50	55	45
18	Redditch United	42	10	13	19	55	63	43
19	Chelmsford City	42	11	10	21	60	75	43
20	Willenhall Town	41	9	12	20	38	73	39
21	Nuneaton Borough	41	8	13	20	56	74	37
22	Witney Town	41	8	11	22	45	67	36

Aylesbury United Champions if they avoided defeat at VS Rugby on 5/5/88

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

Final Table 1987/88

POS		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Chorley	42	26	10	6	78	35	88
2	Hyde United	42	25	10	7	91	52	86
3	Caernarfon Town	42	22	10	10	56	34	76
4	Morecambe	42	19	15	8	61	41	72
5	Barrow	42	21	8	13	70	41	71
6	Worksop Town	42	20	11	11	74	55	71
7	Bangor City	42	20	10	12	72	55	70
8	Rhyl	42	18	13	11	70	42	67
9	Marine	42	19	10	13	67	45	67
10	Frickley Athletic	42	18	11	13	61	55	65
11	Witton Albion	42	16	12	14	61	47	60
12	Goole Town	42	17	9	16	71	61	60
13	Horwich	42	17	9	16	46	44	60
14	Southport	42	15	12	15	43	48	57
15	South Liverpool	42	10	19	13	56	64	49
16	Buxton	42	11	14	17	72	76	47
17	Mossley	42	11	11	20	54	75	44
18	Gateshead	42	11	7	24	52	71	40
19	Matlock Town	42	10	8	24	58	89	38
20	Gainsborough Trinity	42	8	10	24	38	81	34
21	Oswestry Town	42	6	10	26	44	101	28
22	Workington	42	6	3	33	28	113	21

SEASON BY SEASON

1897-8

SUMMARY by Paul Lewis.

1897/98 was the fourth season for the Wanderers in the Second Division of the Southern League and with 45 fixtures played, was the busiest season since the formation of the Club in 1884. The season saw the first turnstiles in operation at Loakes Park and the Club even spent out on new shirts.

"The Chairboys' first competitive match of the season took place at Chesham in the F A Cup - more commonly known then as the English Cup. The match report in the Bucks Free Press was headed "DISGRACEFUL SCENES - NO ATTEMPT TO CHECK ROUGH PLAY". The report also went on to say how play was stopped "*owing to a scrimmage in the crowd*". While in the second-half "*it was not uncommon to see players fencing at one another, while in the crowd free fights were as plentiful as blackberries, and in some of these the Referee allowed the players to interfere*". Ah..the magic of the Cup.

The Wanderers met Chesham Generals again in December, this time in the Berks & Bucks Senior Cup. The gate receipts were just over £37 and 1,000 programmes were distributed free before an incident free game.

There was more trouble, however, during the visit of Portsmouth R A to Loakes Park. With the score standing at 3-1 to Portsmouth and with five minutes remaining, Reilly the Portsmouth 'keeper was charged by Abott the Wycombe centre-forward, and fell to the ground. Reilly jumped up and "*flourished fists in Abott's face*". The crowd appealed then "*in an instant Reilly ran to a spectator and struck him, the crowd following this up by rushing across the ground.*" The outcome of these incidents was the closure of Loakes Park for a week in January, while Reilly was suspended for a fortnight. Abott later joined the Metropolitan Police.

The highlight of the season for Wycombe was a run in the Amateur Cup that ended at the quarter-final stage against Uxbridge in a replay at Loakes Park. Both games with Uxbridge drew large crowds with the large following from Wycombe at Uxbridge meaning that admission tickets were being sold "*over and over again*". The receipts from the first game were over £43 while the replay brought in £49. The gate receipts for the entire season were over £350 plus £70 from members.

The Bucks Free Press summary for the season included "*Rumours are afloat that Loakes Park will be levelled during the vacation, and although the money difficulty seems regarded as insuperable in some quarters, we can only hope that the Committee will find themselves able to take the matter in hand and do the work, and so relieve us from the stigma of "that peculiar pitch" .*



COMPETITION	PL	W	D	L	FOR	AGA
Southern League	22	7	2	13	37	55
F A Challenge Cup	1	0	0	1	0	3
F A Amateur Cup	4	2	1	1	11	6
Berks & Bucks Senior Cup	1	0	0	1	0	2
Friendly	17	11	3	3	61	35
TOTAL	45	20	6	19	109	101

GAME	DATE	OPPOSITION	COMP	V	RESULT	H-T
1	04/09/97	Chesham Generals	Fr	H	W 2-1	(1-1)
2	11/09/97	Ilford	Fr	H	W 3-1	(0-1)
3	18/09/97	Civil Service	Fr	H	W 4-3	(1-2)
4	25/09/97	Chesham Generals	FAC	A	L 0-3	(0-1)
5	02/10/97	St Albans	SL	H	W 2-1	(1-1)
6	09/10/97	Warmley	SL	A	L 0-4	(0-2)
7	16/10/97	Slough	Fr	H	W 5-0	(1-0)
8	23/10/97	Bowes Park	Fr	H	W 5-1	(2-0)
9	30/10/97	Stanley	Fr	H	W 2-1	(0-1)
10	06/11/97	West Herts	SL	H	L 1-2	(0-1)
11	13/11/97	Old St Stephens	SL	H	L 0-2	(0-2)
12	20/11/97	Royal Engineers' T B	SL	H	W 4-1	(3-1)
13	27/11/97	Watford St Mary's	Fr	A	D 2-2	(0-2)
14	04/12/97	Chesham Generals	B&B 2	H	L 0-2	(0-2)
15	11/12/97	Swindon	Fr	H	L 1-5	(0-3)
16	18/12/97	Southall	SL	A	L 2-6	(1-4)
17	20/12/97	Portsmouth R A	SL	H	L 1-3	(1-0)
18	25/12/97	West Ham	Fr	H	W 12-0	(5-0)
19	27/12/97	Old St Lukes	Fr	H	W 6-1	(3-1)
20	28/12/97	Chesham Generals	Fr	A	W 3-1	(3-1)
21	29/12/97	1st Scots Guards	Fr	H	W 5-2	(4-0)
22	01/01/98	Maidenhead	SL	H	D 0-0	(0-0)
23	08/01/98	St Albans	SL	A	L 1-2	(0-1)
24	15/01/98	Wolverton L & N W R	Fr	A	L 1-7	(0-4)
25	22/01/98	Royal Engineers T B	SL	A	L 1-3	(0-1)
26	29/01/98	Old Westminsters	AC 1	A	W 5-0	(4-0)
27	05/02/98	Dartford	SL	A	L 3-5	(2-2)
28	12/02/98	2nd Coldstream Guards	AC 2	H	W 3-1	(2-1)
29	19/02/98	Maidenhead	SL	A	W 5-1	(1-0)
30	26/02/98	Uxbridge	AC 3	A	D 1-1	(0-1)
31	05/03/98	Uxbridge	AC 3r	H	L 2-4	(1-2)
32	09/03/98	Portsmouth R A	SL	A	L 0-6	(0-4)
33	12/03/98	Old St Stephens	SL	A	W 3-2	(2-1)
34	19/03/98	Warmley	SL	H	L 2-6	(0-3)
35	26/03/98	Wolverton	Fr	H	D 2-2	(1-2)
36	02/04/98	West Herts	SL	A	L 2-4	(1-1)
37	06/04/98	Uxbridge	SL	H	W 3-1	(1-0)
38	08/04/98	Bowes Park	Fr	H	L 1-2	(0-2)
39	09/04/98	Chesham	SL	A	L 0-3	(0-2)
40	11/04/98	Middlesbrough	Fr	H	W 3-2	(3-1)
41	12/04/98	Dartford	SL	H	W 4-1	(1-1)
42	13/04/98	Chesham	SL	H	L 0-1	(0-0)
43	16/04/98	Uxbridge	SL	A	D 1-1	(0-1)
44	20/04/98	Southall	SL	H	W 2-0	(0-0)
45	30/04/98	Crouch End Vampires	Fr	H	D 4-4	(2-1)

SOUTHERN LEAGUE - DIVISION TWO
Final Table 1897/98

Pos		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Portsmouth R A	22	19	1	2	75	22	39
2	Warmley (Bristol)	22	19	0	3	108	15	38
3	West Herts	22	11	6	5	50	48	28
4	Uxbridge	22	11	2	9	39	57	24
5	St Albans	22	9	5	8	47	41	23
6	Dartford	22	11	0	11	68	55	22
7	Southall	22	8	2	12	49	61	18
8	Chesham	22	8	2	12	38	48	18
9	Old St Stephens	22	7	2	13	47	66	16
10	WYCOMBE WANDERERS	22	7	2	13	37	55	16
11	Maidenhead	22	4	4	14	27	81	12
12	Royal Engineers T B	22	4	2	16	26	62	10

LOAKES PARK TO HILLBOTTOM ROAD The story so far

On 16th March 1988 it was announced that the Appeal against planning refusal for the Hospital development and Retail warehousing at Loakes Park together with the development of a new ground for Wycombe Wanderers F C at Hillbottom Road, Sands had been upheld.

The Club have been looking for a new home literally ever since they first entered the site on 7th September 1895, although serious attempts to move have come within the last 25 years. Alternative sites have included Kingsmead, Holywell Mead, Cressex, Booker, Gomm Valley and Terriers. The application for a new ground at Hillbottom Road (2.3 miles from Loakes Park) was originally made on 3rd January 1986. This proposal was for the entire site of Loakes Park to be used for warehousing, with Westbruton Co Ltd being the developers of both sites. The estimated value of Loakes Park is around £3m while the proposed building costs of the new ground were £1.5m. It was a proposal that was greeted with horror by the local community, who felt that the needs of the adjacent Wycombe District Hospital were greater than the addition of more warehousing to High Wycombe town centre. A public campaign led to a petition containing 35,614 signatures calling for hospital use of Loakes Park.

Meanwhile at Hillbottom Road, the local residents were, as expected, in opposition to a football ground being sited on their door step. Various petitions from residents in the adjoining roads were received by the Council - totalling 324 signatures against the new ground and 5 in favour (all Wycombe supporters no doubt). Reasons for opposing the move included; detrimental to Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), contrary to Green Belt policy, danger of vandalism, glare from floodlights and severe disturbance for residents of Sands.

On the 9th May 1986 a revised plan was submitted to the Council, this time allocating 3.48 acres of land at Loakes Park to a single retail warehouse with garden centre and the remaining land (3.26 acres) to the Oxford Regional Health Authority for development as an Elderly Mentally Infirm (EMI) unit.

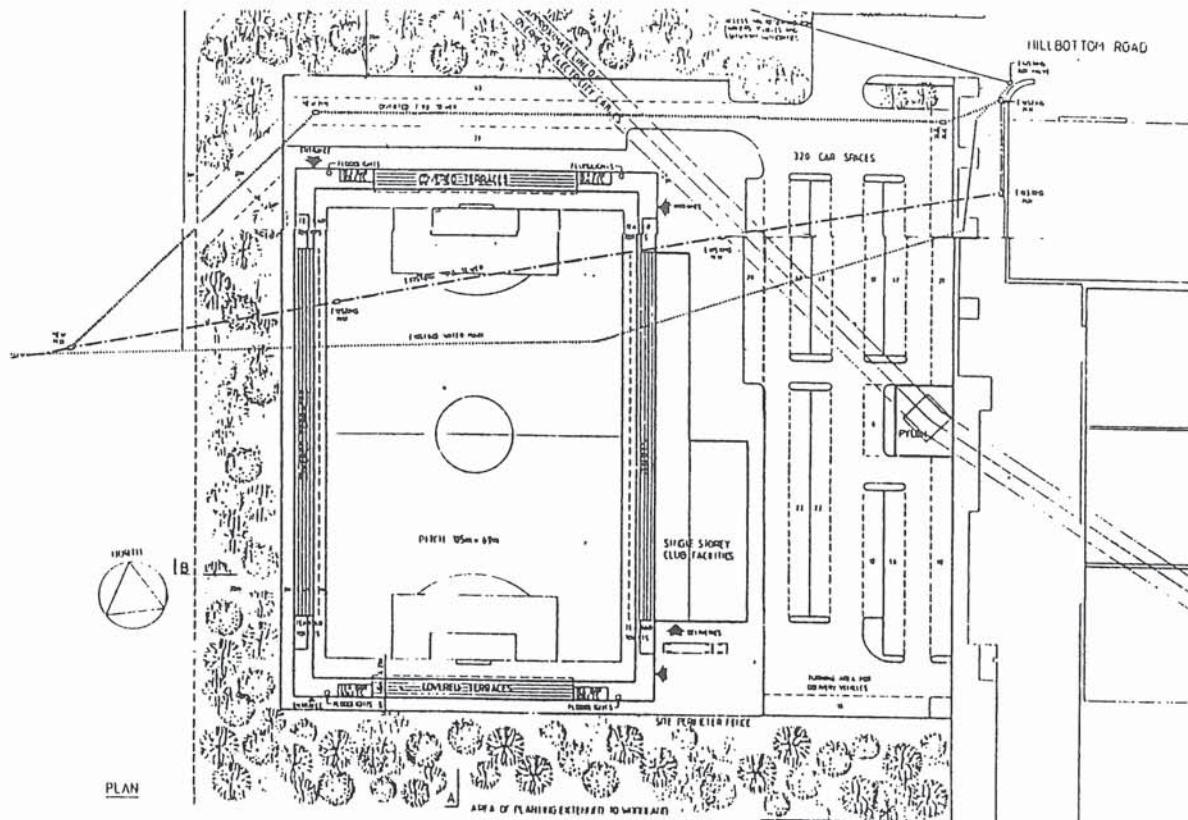
This revised plan proved to be the key factor in the final approval of the development of both sites. Indeed, the use of land at Loakes Park for hospital purposes was the only justification for developing a site in Sands which is both Green Belt and AONB. The local residents claimed it was 'emotional blackmail' and the Council rejected the revised plans.

But why do the Club have to move from Loakes Park? In support of the proposal the Club made the following comments accompanying the application;

"The proposal to relocate the football club from its present site at Loakes Park aims to improve facilities for the Club and remove any nuisance caused by the Club being currently located so near to the town centre."

The football club has recently been promoted to the Gola League. The present facilities include a pitch on sloping ground which is not appropriate for the Club's new status. The existing stands and ancillary facilities are old and out of keeping with modern requirements. The existing site provides very little car parking which results in considerable traffic congestion in surrounding roads during matches."

One of the major talking point has been the capacity of the new ground. The theoretical capacity of Loakes Park is 12,000 - last filled against Middlesbrough in 1975. Recent gates have averaged 1,500 (double that of those at the time of the original application) and the last 'big' gate was against Altrincham in 1982 when 5,000 turned out to see a Trophy Semi-Final second-leg. The application for the new ground at Hillbottom stated a maximum capacity of 6,000 while the illustrative plan accompanying the application (shown opposite) shows a football pitch; covered terraces on three sides of the ground with a stand on the fourth; floodlighting; single-storey Club facilities; parking for 320 cars and a structural landscaping strip on the three sides of the ground abutting open countryside.



Wycombe Wanderers F C and Westbruton Co Ltd. appealed against the decision by the Council to reject the revised plans and a local inquiry into these appeals was opened on 14 July 1987. The appeal emphasised the fact that the Hospital was in great need of additional facilities whilst also pointing out that no redevelopment of Loakes Park could take place without the relocation of the Football Club.

Following the success of the appeal the Club issued a questionnaire to its supporters via the match day programme against Weymouth on 4 April with the results being detailed in the Altringham programme on 30 April. The results gave insufficient capacity, deep and steep terracing and covering all around as the areas of greatest concern to supporters - hopefully this will influence those concerned with the detailed design of the new ground.

It seems not a week goes by nowadays without a story of one club or another announcing plans to move grounds. This is especially true in non-League football where the inner city sites are becoming gold mines. Walthamstow Avenue are the latest club to announce such a move. The famous Green Pond Road ground will be developed while their tenants Leytonstone-Ilford will merge with them to become West Essex United. Maidstone United have recently been having troubles with a new site for their ground while the lessons from recent new non-League grounds at Slough, Fisher, Aylesbury and Weymouth are plain to see.

The move to Hillbottom is a risk, then most things in football are, what we must hope for is that the transition to the new site is as painless as possible, the comforts for all supporters are retained and the move takes place during a close season, when optimism is at a high and the occasion can be fully celebrated.

Finally, a quote from the Wycombe Wanderers Handbook 1957 describing Loakes Park as it was in 1895. *"Loakes Park was beautifully situated behind the Wycombe Abbey gardens, on the south side of the Borough, within easy reach of the centre of the town, edged with decorative trees, on the Chiltern Hills, with its grassy slopes and grand views. This, with its invigorating clean air, made it one of the most attractive playing arenas in the country. It was a rough pitch, actually on the slope, with no stand, no terracing and no shelter from the elements."* It's a description that is more fitting of the present site at Hillbottom Road - a site where there is absolutely no reason why a ground can not be built to the same standards as our Loakes Park.

P L

MINDLESS JOURNALIST IN TERROR RAMPAGE AGAINST FOOTBALL FANS.

On the 23rd April, with the Chairboys having no fixture, I took the opportunity to visit Plough Lane for the Wimbledon-Chelsea match. Having travelled to the match by tube and stood directly behind the goal at the 'away' end, in amongst the usual hordes of Chelsea fans, it wasn't until I was making my way home after the game, that it occurred to me that I had not witnessed a single act of so called 'soccer violence'. (Not really a surprise, having witnessed Chelsea on other occasions this season, at home and away, and knowing that hooliganism at domestic club matches has declined dramatically over the last couple of years or so.) However, when I bought my copy of the Midweek the following Monday I discovered the real reason why splashed across the front page. According to Ms Alison Hayter "MINDLESS SOCCER THUGS".."RAMPAGED THROUGH WYCOMBE" that Saturday afternoon. Oh, so that's where they all were. The report goes on to claim that the trouble in Wycombe town centre had been caused by "*the local branch of the Chelsea Mob, a notorious private army of football hooligans*", I kid you not. Far be it for me to cast doubt on the authenticity of this classic piece of journalism, but is it beyond the brain power of Ms Hayter to stop, think, and ask herself this simple, basic question: If Chelsea are playing an important First Division match in London, how can trouble-makers in High Wycombe on a Saturday afternoon really have ANYTHING to do with Chelsea Football Club.

Simon Burrage

DISAPPEARING TREND

Well what have you thought of the new shirts this season? I for one can't remember red, white and grey being official Club colours. These unwelcome additions are of no benefit to anyone, including the sponsors who might well have changed their logo but the TREND name is much less visable than last season, when the shirts were the correct and traditional shades of blue.

In those halcyon days when Wycombe shirts were proper shirts and not treated like grand-prix cars, you could make out the sponsors name clearly without the aid of binoculars, so everyone was happy.

Ian Blackridge

BAD PROGRAMMING

Quite simply the general standard of programmes in the Conference is appalling. They are advert laden, bland and most important terrible value for money. Perhaps those in power should poke their noses into this sorry state of affairs rather than suppressing unofficial fanzines? "Well you don't have to buy a programme", I hear the reply, but let's be realistic, most supporters will buy one no matter how bad it is simply as a record of the game. This is, however, no excuse for ripping people off. If the programme has a lack of content then surely this should reflect in a lower cover price ie. no where near the 50p norm of most Conference clubs.

Finally, The 1st Chairboys Gas 'Best of an Ordinary Bunch' programme award for 1987/88 goes to Wealdstone.

Ian Blackridge

IN RESERVE

That rare breed who actually received the latest LEAGUE LINE bulletin through the post would have been treated to a Jim Kelman interview. Headed 'JIM WHO?' (Where have I heard that before?) - Jim talked of his past, the present, but more importantly his hopes for the future. "I also plan to set up a reserve/youth team.." was a comment by Jim in the interview that must have raised a few eyebrows.

WWFC last fielded a reserve side in season 1984/85. A year previous to this they had won the Suburban League (North) and even had the threat of disbandment overturned by an extraordinary meeting called by Club members who opposed the idea. The Club cited financial reasons, the huge difference in standard between the Suburban League and the Isthmian League (yes, the Isthmian was better) and the fact that the Reserves were becoming a 'Club' of their own - with little interlinking between players or officials from the two factions of WWFC.

As it turned out the Reserves were given a year's grace - but promotion for the First Team to the Gola League in 1985 saw the Reserves pushed into cold storage with little opposition.

Running the Reserves nowadays would probably cost no more than a top class Conference player and whilst the chances of players coming through into the First Team are not large, the Reserve Team does provide valuable match practice for First Teamers and more importantly gives more local players the chance to play for Wycombe Wanderers, thus developing a sense of loyalty towards their local side. From the supporters point of view, it gives those who are unable to travel to the First Team away matches the chance to still visit Loakes Park. All in all a Reserve team at WWFC would increase the value of the Club to the community and give more people the opportunity to feel part of Wycombe Wanderers F C...and besides, where else would Marlow and Slough Town get their future star players?

Paul Lewis

COMMERCIAL CORNERED

Following a successful launch in 1986, I would like to take this opportunity of looking back at another successful season that has seen our Private Members club go from strength to strength.

The membership has rocketed from over 500 to easily in excess of 350 people, and has certainly helped us dip into the transfer market.

Sadly, with the season only nine months long, we have only managed to organise one function for our 'family' club. All were invited, the only qualification being that you were rich, male and adult. It was a great success, featuring star guests Tommy '92 Club' Docherty and the Victorian Values.

The members were kept fully informed by an endless stream of 2 newsletters. Sadly they took rather longer than had been hoped to actually distribute, and hence the information was long since out of date, including the invitation for a dinner that already taken place.

With this proud record behind us, I am optimistic that we can look forward to continued success, with our advertising stretching to all four corners of the ground.

Phil Ball

DO THEY MEAN US?

Extra
IN A PERFECT WORLD?

SINGLES

JANE WILKES snatches this week's singles...

In an ideal world, the apartheid system would be smashed, Wycombe Wanderers would be in the First Division, and **Hothouse Flowers**' 'Don't Go' (London) would be No. 1.

CITY LIMITS

APR 28-MAY 5 1988



WEMBLEY

WHERE ELSE

As we are aware, later this year our national side, sometimes known as 'Ingurlund', will put itself against the Continentals to decide the Football Championship of Europe and as we settle down to the verbal outpourings of Jimmy Hill and the rather risqué promptings of Mr Motson (how many strikes of the cane was it John?), we will doubtless be aware of various Union Jacks on the terraces advertising such glamourous places as Rochdale, Scunthorpe, Bolton and the like.

Surprised? Why should we be? They are all towns in England with Football League teams and it seems only natural that the people of these towns will want to support the English national side. But where does that support stop? It seems unlikely that the 'average' supporter will follow a team which plays every game more than a hundred miles away yet that is what is expected from supporters in the north of England if they wish to lend their support to the select eleven in white. Indeed many people have a deep reluctance in following England closely as, despite the country stretching from Plymouth to Newcastle, International fixtures are played at one place and one place only...Wembley.

Wembley has been the home of the England International side for many years yet in the First Division today, or any time over the past ten years, it's apparent that the largest crowds have been present at the Merseyside clubs, in the North-East and particularly at Manchester United. How often are we reminded by the TV pundits of the extraordinary loyalty shown by Newcastle United's supporters? That loyalty, together with the large crowds in the North, generally appears to remain unrecognised by the Football Association who have secured a deal with Wembley Stadium to stage all England Internationals for the foreseeable future.

The F A would no doubt agree that staging any International at Old Trafford or Anfield would reduce the capacity and therefore the earning potential of the game. It is certainly true that Wembley is the only stadium in England which can legally contain a crowd of 80,000 and we all realise the need for the F A to be sufficiently funded but must we constantly accept financial considerations taking precedence? Would the game not be better served in the long term by arranging fixtures at three or four of the larger grounds rather than relying on the financial comfort of a decaying Wembley?

A recent visit to Wembley for the England v Holland fixture suggested that a large crowd could not have been handled less efficiently by the staff at Anfield or Old Trafford. Many of those holding tickets for the game were informed by the police on arriving at their designated gate that the section was full and that they would have to gain access elsewhere. A bemused Wembley steward explained that the confusion had been partly caused by a group of fans without tickets who, in attempting to kick down a gate, were allowed in free of charge to prevent further violence. This was not the only incident where fans broke into the Stadium. Another Wycombe supporter at the game confirmed that several hundred supporters managed to prize open the many exit gates - the police meanwhile being conspicuous by their absence. Also, despite the game being 'all ticket', the Wembley turnstiles were accepting money on the night.

All in all the evening proved to be largely farcical, both on the field where the England team lacked imagination and struggled to match the passing ability of the Dutch and off it where the Wembley authorities made it clear that they are sadly lacking in organisational skills. Lucky for them that the Centenary Festival fell flat on its face. If there was confusion inside Wembley that weekend then outside was just the same with a major pop concert being held next door at the Arena. Result - a chaotic evening for motorists and London Transport but substantial income for Wembley Stadium Ltd.

In fact, Wembley recently announced a pre tax profit of £3.5 million pounds and look set to invest some of that money by installing 13,000 more seats (bringing the total seating to 63,000) and several new 'executive suites' in order that people with little interest in football can wine and dine their guests. I suggest that if these people wish to eat they patronise a restaurant. I for one don't know many football supporters who visit the local 'Berni Inn' and expect to witness a full blown England International with their steak and chips.

The feelings of the F A on these developments are unknown but the time has come to remove the 'safety net' that Wembley has become and make England a 'national' side in the true sense of the word.

Simon Flower

THE INDEPENDENTS — ADDRESSES

HIT THE BAR (General — North West) 50p plus A4 SAE
84 Southwold Road, London E5.

OFF THE BALL (General — National) 40p plus A4 SAE
P O Box 851, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6PD.

WHEN SATURDAY COMES (General — National) 40p plus A4 SAE
40 Bowling Green Lane, Clerkenwell, London EC1R ONE.

THE ALMIGHTY BRIAN (Notts Forest) 30p plus A5 SAE
6 Grays Inn Buildings, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4PH

ARSENAL ECHO ECHO (Arsenal) 30p plus A5 SAE
30 Dene Road, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4DD

AWOL (Meadowbank) 50p plus A5 SAE
66 Broughton Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3SA

CHAMPION HILL STREET BLUES (Dulwich Hamlet)
30p plus A5 SAE 106 Wolverton, Avley St, Walworth, London, SE17 2AF.

THE CHELSEA INDEPENDENT (Chelsea) 20p plus A5 SAE
P O BOX 459, London E7

THE CROOKED SPIREITE (Chesterfield) 30p plus A5 SAE
Flat 3, 119 Newbold Road, Chesterfield S41 7PS

DAGGER MAGAZINE (Dagenham) 40p plus A5 SAE
3 Westhill, Stantonbury, Milton Keynes, MK14 6BG

THE ELMSLIE ENDER (Wealdstone) 40p plus A5 SAE
37 Grange Road, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2PR

FLOODLIGHT (Colchester United) 30p plus A5 SAE
10 Sweet Briar Road, Stanway, Colchester, Essex, CO3 5HJ

KICK UP THE R'S (QPR) 50p including postage
51a, Alexandra Drive, Upper Norwood, London SE19 1AW

LEYTON ORIENTEAR (Leyton Orient) 50p including postage
1, York Road, Leyton, London E10 5QG

THE LION ROARS (Millwall) 50p plus A5 SAE
24 Woodham Road, Catford, London SE6

MURPHY'S MOB (Cheltenham Town) 20p plus A5 SAE
46 Long Mynd Avenue, Up Hartherly, Cheltenham, GL51 5QN

NOT THE VIEW (Celtic) 50p plus A5 SAE
P O Box 306, Glasgow G21 2EA

THE PIE (Notts County) 30p plus A5 SAE
61, Stratford Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6AZ.

TALK OF THE TOWN END (Enfield) 30p plus A5 SAE
20 Calder Close, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3TS.

TERRACE TALK (York City) 30p plus A5 SAE
9, Waverley Street, York, YO3 7QZ

THERE'S ONLY ONE F IN FULHAM (Fulham) 50p plus A5 SAE
37 Ember Lane, Esher, Surrey, KT10 8EA

VOICE OF THE VALLEY (Charlton Athletic) 40p plus A5 SAE
16 Olyffe Avenue, Welling, Kent DA16 3HZ.

WALKING DOWN THE HOLBEATH ROAD (Dunfermline Ath)
40p plus A4 SAE. 11a Fourth Street, Edinburgh.

Most of the above are available from SPORTSPAGES BOOKSHOP,
Cambridge Circus Shopping Centre, Charing Cross Road, London.
Nearest tube — Leicester Square or Tottenham Court Road.

NAME QUIZ by Pete Oxbrow

1. Name Wycombe's Managers since 1968 (ten in all).
2. Name the venue of Wycombe's only Amateur Cup Final victory.
3. Name the teams that have knocked us out of the F A Cup since 1980/81.
4. Name the League Wycombe Wanderers won in season 1983/84
5. Name the teams we played in our Trophy run in 1985/86.
6. Name the scorers of our first and last League goals in 1986/87 and 1987/88.
7. Name the players who played in goal for Wycombe in the VOL in 1986/87.
8. Name the eleven players who played against Colchester in the F A Cup.
9. Name the teams we beat in cup ties in 1986/87.
10. Name our top 3 goalscorers in the VOL in 1986/87.

Answers
 1. Barry Darvill, Britain Lee, Ted Powell, John Reardon, Andy Williams, Mike Keen, Paul Benne, Alan Gane, Peter Sudaby and Jim Kejman.
 2. Highbury
 3. Bournemouth, Barnes, Bristol Rovers, Chelmsford City, Burton Albion, York City, Shrewsbury and Aylesbury United.
 4. Barnet, Cray Valley Town, Leek Town, Kettering Town, Mark Ashford and Ricki Collier, Gary Lester, Graham Bassiner (1986/87), Mark West and Brian Greenaway (1987/88).
 5. Gary Lester, Graham Bassiner (1986/87), Mark Ashford and Ricki Collier, Anthony Riley, Kevin Collins, Declan Link and Neil Stanier, Dave Burgess, Anton Vitevics, Des Macmillan, Mark West, Simon Read, Bobby Bell, Neil Stannier, Anton Vitevics, Des Macmillan, Mark West, Simon Read, Bobby Bell, Declan Link and Neil Stannier, Gary Lester, Graham Bassiner (1986/87), Mark Ashford and Ricki Collier, Gary Lester, Simon Read, Bobby Bell, Declan Link and Neil Stannier, Anton Vitevics, Des Macmillan, Mark West, Simon Read, Bobby Bell, Declan Link and Neil Stannier, Gary Lester, Simon Read, Bobby Bell, Declan Link and Neil Stannier, Anton Vitevics, Des Macmillan, Mark West (21), Andy Graham (18) and Noel Ashford (12).
 10. Mark West (21), Andy Graham (18) and Noel Ashford (12).

To all supporters

EXPERIMENTAL OFFSIDE LAW Season 1987/88

Since the start of the season, in all matches played in the GM Vauxhall Conference, an experiment has been in operation under the auspices of F.I.F.A., whereby players cannot be OFFSIDE direct from ANY FREE KICK.

It would be of great interest to know the opinions of club supporters on the success or failure of this experiment.

If you would like to comment then please complete the following questionnaire and return it to: The Football Association, 16, Lancaster Gate, London W2 3LW.

(please cross out the Yes or No as applicable)

1. Are you aware of the experiment, or are you utterly stupid? Yes No

2. Do you consider the experiment has been:

- a complete waste of time?
- b) A partial waste of time?
- c) A jolly good idea?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

3. Have your Club's playing tactics been changed to suit the experiment, or do they not realise that any free-kick can now be hoofed into an unsightly ruck of players steaming in on the goalkeeper?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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4. Do you think there is probably a dozen other administrative matters the F A would be better off looking at rather than tampering with the rules of the game at this level?

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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Thank you for your interest and support and allowing us to degrade and insult your League in this manner.



Results

Saturday 12 March 1988			
Barnet	2-1	Maclesfield	2312
Cheltenham	1-2	Kettering	1122
Dagenham	1-2	Enfield	604
Kidderminster	3-3	Lincoln	2635
Runcorn	3-2	Maidstone	463
Stafford	0-0	Weymouth	950
Sutton	3-1	Bath	601
Wealdstone	0-0	Altrincham	534
Welling	3-1	Boston	522
Wycombe	1-1	Northwich	1531
Saturday 19 March 1988			
Altrincham	2-3	Fisher	791
Boston	4-1	Stafford	1128
Cheltenham	0-0	Runcorn	903
Dagenham	0-5	Kettering	469
Enfield	0-0	Lincoln	1390
Kidderminster	2-1	Maidstone	1239
Northwich	1-4	Sutton	680
Telford	3-1	Bath	1105
Wealdstone	0-6	Barnet	1556
Weymouth	1-1	Maclesfield	1061
Wycombe	3-1	Welling	1404
Tuesday 22 March 1988			
Bath	3-1	Weymouth	582
Maclesfield	3-2	Wealdstone	753
Sutton	3-3	Enfield	779
Telford	2-3	Kettering	1208
Wednesday 23 March 1988			
Welling	0-1	Maidstone	750
Saturday 26 March 1988			
Barnet	1-1	Kidderminster	3067
Bath	2-1	Wycombe	932
Dagenham	0-1	Telford	459
Fisher	2-3	Enfield	586
Kettering	3-2	Wealdstone	1217
Lincoln	5-0	Altrincham	2720
Maclesfield	2-1	Boston	1002
Maidstone	3-0	Runcorn	707
Northwich	0-0	Welling	562
Stafford	2-0	Sutton	980
Weymouth	1-1	Cheltenham	1052
Monday 28 March 1988			
Northwich	2-1	Weymouth	578
Tuesday 29 March 1988			
Bath	1-3	Fisher	604
Maclesfield	1-2	Weymouth	1104
Sutton	2-2	Kettering	655
Wealdstone	4-2	Stafford	509
Friday 1 April 1988			
Fisher	1-1	Lincoln	1705
Saturday 2 April 1988			
Bath	0-3	Stafford	548
Boston	2-1	Barnet	2703
Kidderminster	2-1	Wealdstone	1335
Maclesfield	1-1	Wycombe	1163
Maidstone	1-1	Northwich	796
Runcorn	4-0	Welling	538
Sutton	2-1	Altrincham	675
Monday 4 April 1988			
Altrincham	5-1	Enfield	911
Barnet	2-0	Maidstone	3510
Cheltenham	2-2	Kidderminster	1710
Lincoln	5-1	Boston	7542
Northwich	0-1	Kettering	793
Runcorn	5-1	Fisher	537
Stafford	4-0	Dagenham	907
Welling	3-1	Maclesfield	772
Wycombe	2-1	Weymouth	2066

Tuesday 5 April 1988			
Wealdstone	1-1	Bath	830
Thursday 7 April 1988			
Welling	1-1	Fisher	827
Saturday 9 April 1988			
Barnet	1-1	Wycombe	2956
Bath	1-3	Maidstone	396
Cheltenham	3-3	Lincoln	1715
Dagenham	1-4	Runcorn	403
Kidderminster	2-2	Sutton	1103
Maclesfield	2-4	Fisher	808
Weymouth	0-0	Northwich	705
Monday 11 April 1988			
Fisher	5-1	Dagenham	468
Tuesday 12 April 1988			
Altrincham	2-0	Stafford	901
Maclesfield	2-0	Lincoln	2050
Sutton	1-1	Northwich	588
Wednesday 13 April 1988			
Maidstone	0-0	Welling	848
Telford	2-1	Runcorn	1126
Weymouth	2-0	Barnet	1747
Saturday 16 April 1988			
Altrincham	2-0	Bath	1158
Dagenham	1-3	Cheltenham	447
Enfield	1-3	Runcorn	844
Fisher	3-1	Kidderminster	558
Kettering	2-2	Sutton	1853
Lincoln	3-0	Wealdstone	4159
Maidstone	2-0	Maclesfield	742
Northwich	2-1	Barnet	1483
Telford	0-0	Wycombe	1610
Welling	0-3	Stafford	864
Weymouth	3-1	Boston	1084
Monday 18 April 1988			
Maclesfield	1-1	Telford	950
Tuesday 19 April 1988			
Bath	2-1	Lincoln	1336
Runcorn	1-1	Altrincham	724
Wealdstone	2-2	Northwich	592
Wednesday 20 April 1988			
Welling	4-1	Telford	646
Weymouth	2-1	Maidstone	1169
Thursday 21 April 1988			
Stafford	3-2	Enfield	757
Saturday 23 April 1988			
Altrincham	3-0	Weymouth	1007
Boston	0-1	Northwich	1095
Cheltenham	2-2	Welling	897
Kettering	2-0	Lincoln	4135
Kidderminster	1-1	Barnet	1851
Maclesfield	3-1	Dagenham	802
Maidstone	4-2	Stafford	1201
Runcorn	2-1	Bath	532
Sutton	2-1	Telford	572
Wealdstone	2-1	Fisher	452
Sunday 24 April 1988			
Enfield	0-1	Cheltenham	506
Monday 25 April 1988			
Kidderminster	1-1	Northwich	1121
Tuesday 26 April 1988			
Altrincham	1-1	Cheltenham	811
Kettering	0-3	Runcorn	2520
Maclesfield	0-2	Bath	866
Telford	1-0	Weymouth	1037
Wednesday 27 April 1988			
Boston	1-1	Telford	779
Lincoln	1-1	Maidstone	4892
Welling	1-1	Enfield	611
Monday 25 April 1988			
Telford	2-1	Fisher	1102
Saturday 30 April 1988			
Barnet	1-2	Runcorn	5143
Bath	0-0	Welling	512
Boston	4-1	Cheltenham	953
Enfield	2-0	Kettering	884
Lincoln	2-1	Stafford	4402
Northwich	2-3	Maidstone	521
Sutton	2-3	Maclesfield	609
Weymouth	1-1	Kidderminster	954
Wycombe	1-0	Altrincham	1607

WELCOME TO LINCOLN CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

FOR THE CONVENIENCE
OF GENUINE SUPPORTERS
THE STEWARDS & POLICE
HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED
BY THE DIRECTORS TO...
EJECT ANYONE
CREATING A
DISTURBANCE
P.M.Hough.Secretary

Bank Holiday Monday arrived, Barnet had committed suicide, and Lincoln needed 3 points from their final game against Wycombe to be assure of promotion. With that incentive it seemed the whole of Lincolnshire had decided to visit Sincil Bank. The programme sold-out at 1.30pm, the sun shone and the crowd reached a figure not seen at Lincoln for 16 years.

The Wycombe fans were huddled in a section of seating in the South Park stand behind the goal, capacity about 250, meanwhile a section of terracing adjacent to the seats remained empty. 2.30pm arrived, the Wycombe section was full and the coaches had only just arrived - a police escort (two motor cycles and a riot van) delaying their arrival.

Cries of "sort it out" culminated in the Police opening the "valuable" piece of terracing to Wycombe fans. The police had obviously not expected quite so many away fans - Maidstone brought only 16 the previous Wednesday. By kick-off there were close to 800 Wycombe fans on site.

The gates were locked, the £25,000 receipts counted and the video surveillance equipment turned on. The game began with the Lincoln bandwagon relatively subdued, their chants limited to "You're staying down with the Barnet". Wycombe replied with "We've come to wind you up".

On the pitch 27 minutes passed before Sertori's back header deceived Gary Lester. The locals celebrated and the insults were hurled towards the Wycombe section. Those who objected were threatened with ejection from the ground by the friendly officers on site, who were only too pleased to see the Wycombe fans pelted with coins, bottles and a water bomb (well I think it was water!).

Phil Brown's second half goal killed the game and the final whistle was greeted with the inevitable pitch invasion. The champagne was sprayed and the winning speeches prepared. Look out Division Four "Murphs Message" is heading your way.

Monday 2 May 1988

Altrincham	6-0	Dagenham	971
Cheltenham	1-1	Sutton	1225
Lincoln	2-0	Wycombe	9432
Northwich	0-0	Wealdstone	474
Stafford	3-4	Boston	822
Welling	0-2	Barnet	2517
Weymouth	1-3	Enfield	1036

Murph's Message

At the time of writing these notes the situation is still very much in the balance with regard to the Championship, the only difference being that for some time the matter has been in our own hands but to an extent the pendulum had shifted conversely.

It goes without saying that when mathematically within your grasp people have every optimism and when matters are mathematically beyond your grasp then people maybe have a more pessimistic view but I sometimes wonder what part psychology plays and make no mistake chance plays a big part in it and it could well be that we reach the top of the table when people think we are unable to do so after not having reached the top of the table when people thought we should have so done.

Much has been discussed this year about the hysteria of Lincoln City Football Club being in the Vauxhall Conference but it strikes me not too much has been said from the praiseworthy position with regard to your support.

I have recently just completed looking at some figures with regard to the Clubs accounts for the hitherto previous seasons together with the attendances for the hitherto previous seasons. One can place no more lavish praise upon you as supporters but to say that the attendance figures for this season and their according proceeds have virtually matched the attendance figures and the proceeds for the past two seasons put together. An incredible achievement which I am sure is very much recognised by Management, Players and Directors. So at least as a group of supporters you can consider yourselves beyond reproach and have played as bigger part as any in our efforts to regain League status.

The evaluation of success or comparative success is always arguable as one reflects certain areas but irrespective of support and having brought some life, belief, hope and enthusiasm back to the club I suppose in it's final analysis it is to be regarded in terms of being Champions.

Well one thing is for sure, the ball has been stopped rolling, the ball has stopped sliding down the hill and I think it is true to say that whatever League the club participates in during the ensuing season we will have a winning team as it is fair and reasonable to assume that the longer we are together the more competent we will become and it will not be difficult to improve upon this seasons results and I am quite sure that the adage that supporters will always watch a winning team or a team that is in very close proximity of it's objects, will, I am sure again be vindicated.

Wednesday 5 May 1988

Runcorn	1-0	Kettering	686
Northwich	6-0	Boston	399
Wealdstone	1-3	Maidstone	445